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genus, but he did not name the species; that was done by Linnæus, who so designated it in the first edition of the *Species Plantarum*; and he always cited Gronovius for *Linnæa*, and himself for *Linnæa borealis*; but among later authors of acknowledged erudition, a majority commit the error named. I cannot find the shadow of a fact in all the range of the earlier bibliography to excuse it.

I would remark, finally, that Linnæus, in first publishing the species, cites faithfully *Campanula serpillifolia*, Bauhin, as the oldest synonym, and it was by this name that he must have known the plant from those days of his youth when he began the studies which were to culminate in making him the great Nomenclator.

Some Morphological Notes on *Caulophyllum thalictroides*.

Dr. Asa Gray, in his *Manual*, describes the genus *Caulophyllum* as "sending up in early spring a simple and naked stem, terminated by a small raceme or panicle of yellowish-green flowers, and, a little below, bearing a large triterately compound leaf, without any common petiole," And under the specific description of *C. thalictroides*, Michx., he adds: "a smaller biternate leaf often at the base of the panicle." This plant is quite common in Ohio, and the smaller leaf here referred to seems to be a constant feature; even a third leaf is occasionally added. It is also not uncommon to see the lowest leaf with a common petiole nine or ten millimetres in length, and the smallest leaf divided once ternately, with only the middle lobe divided ternately again. The inflorescence may be characterized as consisting of a terminal panicle with a smaller panicle or raceme a slight distance below the same in the axil of the smallest leaf. It is not rare to find a third small panicle or raceme in the axil of the larger leaf, or even in the axil of all three leaves if they are developed. The existence of these forms does not indicate that our learned author has been caught napping, but serves to show that great variations exist which cannot always be taken into account in a condensed work intended for the school-room. But they may also serve to show another and perhaps more important truth. Many students of botany believe that plants did not always exist in the form in which they

are now found. Their ancestors would have been defined as distinct species. Now, our early spring flowers seem to differ from their ancestors usually in producing fewer leaves and a shorter stem; these, together with the flower-buds of next year, are already stored away by fall in underground buds, ready to come up at the first flush of spring and blossom long before the surrounding vegetation has managed to unfold its leaves and to get strength enough to produce blossoms. In some plants, as in *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, L. the plants are content to produce only one flower on each stem, and in order to further assist in its rapid blossoming, this single flower almost always terminates the stem, thus securing the first flow of sap, and incidentally giving rise to sympodial growth. Such plants frequently produce flowers before the leaves have been even moderately developed. Sympodial growth is also frequent among plants possessing a compound inflorescence, although here its immediate use is not always so evident. In *Symplocarpus foetidus*, Salisb., where this sympodial structure may be only theoretically followed, the advantage may well be doubted. Spring flowers, therefore, by the decrease of the number of their leaves and also often by the reduction of the number of flowers to be produced, have made it possible to prepare the parts necessary for next year's growth during the previous autumn and then to develop them rapidly in the spring.* But they are continually giving signs of their origin by producing more leaves, as in *Podophyllum peltatum*, L. †, or by producing a greater number of flowers or even a compound inflorescence, as in *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, L. ‡, or by increasing the number of both, as in *Caulophyllum*. When we consider, however, that their present state is in reality the abnormal one, it does not appear so strange that reversion to the old types should take place, and usually it takes only patience and a great number of specimens to detect such cases of reversion. Often they become so frequent as to attract no attention and are then included in the specific description of the plant.

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* The Hibernacula of Herbs. Am. Nat., Nov., 1883.

† The May Apple. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club, June, 1884.

‡ Notes on *Sanguinaria Canadensis*. Bull. Torrey Bot. Club, April, 1887.